

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed January 11, 2007 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claim 1 is amended to clarify its scope; support for the amendment is found in originally filed claim 2, as well as p. 4, lines 1-8 of the application as filed. Claims 1-8 are also amended editorially; these amendments are not intended to affect the scope of the originally filed claims. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claim 4 because of multiple dependencies present in the claim. The Office Action also objected to claims 5-8 because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from another multiple dependent claim. Applicants respectfully traverse the objections of these claims. Applicants refer to the Preliminary Amendment filed alongside the national stage application on November 17, 2004, and assert that the multiple dependencies of claims 4-8 have been removed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to these claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schoeps et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,299,495). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As currently presented, Applicants note that claim 1 recites that "each separate cover surrounds a single spray nozzle." Analogously, claim 2 requires "each spray nozzle being surrounded by a separate cover." Claim 2 also requires "a throttling device that restricts the air flow enough to leave the spray cone undisturbed." Applicants assert that at least these elements are not disclosed in Schoeps et al.

First, and with respect to claims 1 and 2, Schoeps et al. discloses a cylinder moistening assembly having a single screen covering all nozzles. This feature is seen in Figures 1-6, where each spray nozzle 7 has the same cover, i.e. the housing 3. The plates 12 and 13, mounted into

the housing 3, are shown as accommodating multiple nozzles in Figures 2-6, and illustrate that the same screen is used for all nozzles. Because both claims 1 and 2 require a separate cover surrounding each single spray nozzle, this claim element is not disclosed in Schoeps et al.

Secondly, and with respect to claim 2, Schoeps et al. discloses use of an air flow having a pressure of about 1.1 to 1.5 bar. Schoeps et al., col. 4:54-56. Schoeps et al. does not disclose how air pressure levels are maintained, and does not disclose a throttling device useable for such a purpose. For this additional reason, claim 2 cannot be anticipated by Schoeps et al.

For at least the above two reasons, Applicants assert that claims 1 and 2 are not anticipated by Schoeps et al. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims. Similarly, claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 2 and inherit all of the limitations therefrom. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of those dependent claims as well.

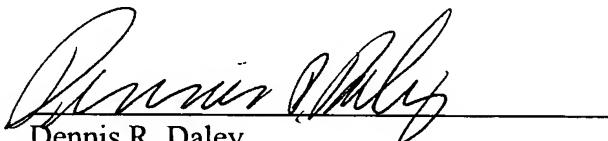
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that the prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: April 9, 2007


Dennis R. Daley
Reg. No. 34,994
DDaley/AJL/dc